

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 14, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's request for a major disaster declaration for nine Northern Illinois counties as a result of severe storms and flooding beginning August 20 and continuing through August 31, 2007.

Homes and businesses located in the path of flood waters in Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry, and Will Counties received the most severe impacts of the storm and flooding. Governor Blagojevich already has declared these counties state disaster areas.

The damage assessment found that nearly 70 homes were destroyed in the nine-county area, including 62 in DeKalb County and six in LaSalle County. More than 160 other homes in the area received major damage, while nearly 4,800 other homes received lesser damage. In addition, 169 businesses in the area suffered damage, including six businesses that suffered major damage. The assessment teams also determined that it will cost local and state government agencies almost \$23 million to respond to the flooding and severe storms. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is coordinating the state's response.

We respectfully request that you make the necessary declaration as soon as possible so that the residents of these counties can receive federal disaster assistance to help the ongoing recovery efforts in northern Illinois. Specifically, we support the Governor's request for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans. We also support the request for Hazard Mitigation Assistance for all counties statewide. We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important request and stand ready to assist in any appropriate way.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator




Danny K. Davis
U.S. Representative



Dennis Hastert
U.S. Representative



Bobby L. Rush
U.S. Representative



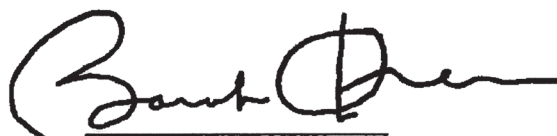
Donald A. Manzullo
U.S. Representative



Daniel Lipinski
U.S. Representative




Judy Biggert
U.S. Representative



Barack Obama
U.S. Senator



Rahm Emanuel
U.S. Representative



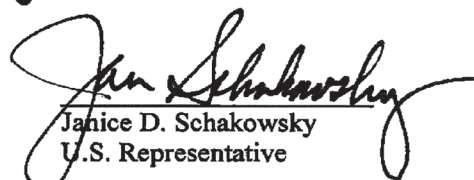
Mark Steven Kirk
U.S. Representative



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
U.S. Representative



Peter Roskam
U.S. Representative



Janice D. Schakowsky
U.S. Representative



Melissa L. Bean
U.S. Representative